

# THE RIO NEWS.

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NUMBER 7

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Residence: On the Church premises. BAPTIST CHURCH.—No. 25, Rua de Sant'Anna. Services in Portuguese every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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The eminent Professor Chapó, on board of the *Atlantique* at Dakar, wrote the following to his friend Jonathan Campello:

"Rosalina was only on the first day sea-sick; when she became giddy, I made her lie down and gave her tincture of Nectandrus Amara, which produced a most surprising result. Shortly afterwards, the girl said, 'I think I feel better now,' and then 'the giddiness has already gone.'"

A few hours after the first dose she got up and from that time on has been free from the disease.

**RIVER PLATE ITEMS.**

—The statistical bureau in Buenos Aires estimates the population of that city on 31st December last as 521,293.

—The *Montevideo Times* of the 29th ult. notes that subscriptions for a memorial to Queen Victoria there amounted to £500, and that many British residents had not yet been heard from.—Persons designing to cross the Andes will do well to carry their own provisions from Buenos Aires, as the *pasaducos* on the route across the Andes have combined to exact excessive charges. They ask \$10 for a bed, and for provisions about their weight in silver.

—President Roca has excited no little anger in Uruguay by describing politics in that country as "ferocious pitifulness of mediaeval hatred and rancor." Perhaps the pot is not quite so black as the kettle, but it is not so very long since the color of the two could not be discriminated.

—Advices from La Plata say that the epizootia has made it appear to an alarming extent in the southern provinces, especially at Bahia Blanca and vicinity. The provincial government has sent Veterinary Lm as far as Naposta to inspect and report on the disease. —*Southern Cross*.

—The Argentine press is now beholding Brazil for alleged discrimination in favor of American flour, and is expressing some doubt as to the value of the exchange of presidential visits. We have always held doubts about those visits having any value, and now our pessimism is again proving true.

—For several days past our contemporaries have been proclaiming that the public health is satisfactory without insistence that provokes the suspicion that the contrary is the case. Rumors to the contrary have, indeed, been circulated, but we cannot say that they have the least foundation beyond the usual complaints of summer and the stone fruit season. —*Montevideo Times*, Jan. 27.—The government of Cordova, a province which is howling for roads and irrigation works which it leaves the national government to look after, has subscribed to 100 expensive copies of a lawyer's work in support of the baneful gait tax. This is one of the provinces which cannot and will not pay its debts yet it has money to spend on a book of legal quibble and conundrums! —*B. A. Herald*.—There are a considerable number of business houses in the Delta of the Paraná. The point of shipment of stores is generally at San Fernando from which place there are several lines of small steamers running with freight and passengers. In cases where the amount of stores for shipment reaches \$500 it is necessary that someone come to this city to take out permission to embark the stores, although they do not go outside the swampy parishes of San Fernando, the islands being within its limits. Anyone can see that this is an outrageous requirement. If a permission be obtained it should be issued at the point of embarkation. To secure this permission it would cost six dollars for each such lot of goods, unless the owner himself should make the journey to this city, a broker asking that sum for doing the business. —*B. A. Herald*.In a telegram published a few days since in one of the morning dailies of this city and dated from Azul mention is made of a robbery of 700 sheep from the establishment of an estancia of the partido of Olavarría. It states that the name of the robber is known, but that as he holds a good conduct certificate issued by a police commissary of a neighboring department, no one likes to make the official complaint and notification to the police of Olavarría, since the vengeance of the criminal is what is feared by all of the neighbors. To see such a statement published in a newspaper of wide circulation, and to observe that it calls forth neither an explanation nor a contradiction, furnishes us with a clear proof of the lamentable state things have reached in some of our camp districts. It might be thought that the loss of seven hundred sheep by one estancia would stir him up to lodging a protest of some kind or another. And the wonder grows upon us to explain how it is, that with losses of the sort mentioned, estancia business can be any other than disastrous. —*Review*, Buenos Aires, Feb. 2.**AMERICAN LIBERALITY.**

The benefactions of the year 1900 to educational institutions, libraries, art museums and galleries, charities and churches, by personal donations and bequests, amount to the sum of \$69,264,030 to date, or between \$19,000,000 and \$20,000,000 less for last year. This total may be increased somewhat during the coming week, but approximately it represents what has been contributed to these various objects during the year.

It is in no way discouraging that the record shows this year a falling off as compared with 1899, for last year was a record-breaker. Its total (\$79,749,956) was a round fifty millions greater than the average of the preceding ten years, and that of the present year is fully thirty-two millions greater, showing that, while the wave has naturally receded a little, it is still far in advance of the total reached in any year prior to 1899.

Of this \$69,264,030 educational institutions have received \$30,669,644, and more than half of this has been received by thirty-six of the largest colleges and universities. The smaller colleges, seminaries, and seminaries have been given \$9,661,405, and the Methodist twentieth century thank-offering has enriched education.

al institutions with \$3,142,532 more. Libraries and art museums and galleries should be classified as educational. The former have received \$5,448,000. Nearly the entire amount has been given for the building of new libraries in sixty-four different cities and towns, and seventeen of these are to be credited to Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who has given \$1,195,000 for this purpose during the year. For art galleries and museums there has been donated \$956,000.

Charities and churches have received a generous proportion of the total benefits. Charities have taken \$13,390,176, which is about \$150,000 more than last year, and the various churches and church enterprises \$8,799,605, which is nearly \$6,000,000 more than last year. When it is considered that these figures only represent gifts or bequests where the amount is over \$1,000 in each case, and that private subscriptions or collections, of which no record can be kept, are not included, there is every reason for the pessimist to take courage. "This world is not half so bad a world as some would like to make it." —*Chicago Tribune*.**THE OLD DISPUTE.**The *New York Times* of December 30 reproduces the following extracts from American papers of a century ago, who were then discussing the question about the beginning of the century just as the press and public have recently been doing. The first one quoted has something of the style of a "mailed fist," and shows that its editor did not entertain the slightest doubt on the subject. The quotations are as follows:"We are now in the last year of the century, and whoever denies this has no more brains than an oyster." —*The Porcupine*, 1799.A correspondent writes to *The Columbian Centinel*, published at Boston, Jan. 1, 1801: "There are some disputes which for want of satisfactory evidence will probably be everlasting. Such, for example, is the thirly altercation known as the Century Dispute. I verily believe that if we could be indulged with a peep upon earth a hundred years hence we should find our children as warmly engaged untying this knotty point as ever we have been.""If any one is with us who lived at the beginning of the last century it must certainly be an entertainment to him to see the different state of things of 1701 to that of the present time. It would, I imagine, be a much more desirable object to live till the year 1901, because a greater change in the affairs of the world seem to be promised." —*Baltimore Gazette*, Jan. 1801.

"Precisely twelve o'clock last night. The eighteenth century took its flight, Full many a calculating hand, Has racked its brains, its ink has shed, To prove by metaphysics fine, A hundred means but ninety-nine, While at their wisdom others wondered, But took one more to make a hundred. Strange at the eighteenth century's close While light in beams effulgent glows, When bright illuminations say, Has chased the darkness far away, Heads filled with mathematic lore, Dispute if two and two make four. Go on, ye scientific sages, Collect your light a few more ages, Perhaps as swells the vast amount, A century hence you'll learn to count."

(Connecticut Courant, Jan. 1801.)

**DRAINS AND SANITATION.**The basis of knowledge on which sanitation rests is furnished chiefly by the observation of facts on a large scale as they occur in actual life. Its aim has been the removal of conditions which experience has shown to be favorable to the propagation and spread of disease, and the substitution of other conditions. In general this means the removal of what we call dirt. Hence we get the purification of the ground by drainage, by refuse disposal, by impervious paving, and so on; the purification of drinking water by subsidence and filtration, or by having recourse to unpolluted sources, deep wells and springs; the purification of food stuffs by inspection, and the destruction of unwholesome articles; the purification of the air by ventilation and regulations as to space; the purification of rivers by the diversion of polluting materials, and so on. Such was the line of activity, the aim being the improvement of the general conditions of life. It acts in two ways; it removes those agencies by which disease is fostered and spread and it promotes health thereby rendering individuals less susceptible to such risks as they may encounter. Another measure must be added, of a different character—namely, the segregation of the sick as centres of infection; hence isolation hospitals. But this movement was carried a very little way during the first period; its development belongs to the second, of which it is a very important feature. Twenty years ago isolation hardly existed; nobody went to the fever hospitals—there were scarcely any to go to; and the only infectious disease not received and treated in the general hospital was smallpox. —*Contemporary Review*.

—A London telegram of the 5th inst. says that the British losses in South Africa, according to advices received at the war office, amount to 54,721 men up to 31st January. These include killed, deaths from disease and wounds, wounded, and those incapacitated by sickness.

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Capital ..... £ 1,500,000  
 Capital paid up ..... " 750,000  
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(Caixa 208.)

branch-offices in São Paulo and Santos

(Caixa 520.) (Caixa 183)

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Subscribed capital. . . . £1,500,000  
 Realized do . . . . . " 900,000  
 Reserve fund . . . . . " 1,000,000

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AUTHORIZED BY

Decree No. 2,132 of 2nd January, 1897.

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**BANCO DA REPUBLICA DO BRAZIL**

Realized Capital. Rs. 101,246,400\$000

N. B. This capital to be

reduced to Rs. 100,000,000 in accordance with  
 the Government's Decree of 8th May 1897.

Reserve Fund . . . Rs. 17,480,078\$736

Profits in suspense . . . Rs. 11,156,739\$835

on 31st May 1900.

OFFICE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

9, Rua da Alfandega.

Agencies at Pará, Maranhão, Ceará, Pernambuco  
 Bahia, Victoria, Santos, S. Paulo, Desterro  
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Draws on:

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 London & County Banking Co. Ltd.  
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Opens accounts current:

Pays interest on Deposits for fixed periods.  
 Executes orders for purchases and sales of  
 stocks, shares, etc., and transacts every  
 description of banking business.

**BANCO DA REPUBLICA.**

The liabilities of the Banco da Republica,  
 according to the last balance-sheet published  
 before the bank suspended payments, amount-  
 ed on August 31 to the following sums:

Capital, reserve funds and suspended profits.....	130,623,795\$096
Collaterals and other secur- ities deposited.....	283,728,498\$004
Sundry liabilities.....	196,173,909\$903
Total.....	610,526,194\$003

The first balance sheet published after the  
 bank's suspension of payments was that of  
 Oct. 31. The liabilities were then as follows:

Capital, reserve funds and suspended profits.....	141,986,277\$106
Collaterals and other secur- ities deposited.....	279,192,436\$758
Sundry liabilities.....	151,102,503\$560
Total.....	572,281,217\$424

According to the balance-sheet of the 31st  
 ult. the liabilities on old account at that date  
 were as follows:

Capital, reserve funds and suspended profits.....	136,506,509\$710
Collaterals, and other secur- ities deposited.....	245,129,951\$756
Sundry liabilities.....	130,602,799\$379
Total.....	512,239,260\$845

The sundry liabilities of the bank on old  
 account at the end of last month included  
 104,118,908\$ for *inscriptos* (3 %), bonds issued  
 in payment of its debts. But at that date the  
 bank held 20,438,500\$ of these *inscriptos*,  
 which, we should say, have since been  
 destroyed, thus reducing the outstanding  
 amount to 84,000,000\$ and the bank's sundry  
 liabilities to 129,800,760\$845.

The total issue of *inscriptos* up to the end  
 of last month was 114,228,100\$, but of these  
 9,979,200\$ had been redeemed and destroyed.  
 At an average loss of 35 %, of the nominal  
 value of these *inscriptos*, the creditors who  
 accepted them in lieu of money had lost up to  
 the end of last month 39,979,835\$. The bank  
 claims to have made a profit of 713,318\$050 on  
 those which it had redeemed up to the same  
 date.

Deducting from the amount of sundry  
 liabilities that of *inscriptos*, we have a re-  
 mainder of 46,253,896\$579. This includes the  
 sum of 12,725,030\$95 which, at the end of last  
 month the bank still owed on old account to  
 the national treasury.

According to a statement made by the gov-  
 ernment in last September it made the bank a  
 loan of £600,000 in June and offered it  
 in August another of £300,000, which was ap-  
 parently accepted. In the bank's balance-  
 sheets before the suspension of payments we  
 see, however, no trace of these transactions.

In the balance sheet of Aug. 31 the bank's  
 indebtedness to the government is stated to be  
 at that time 37,984,437\$ on account of the  
 redemption fund, and 7,196,962\$120 on ac-  
 count current, making a total of 45,181,339\$  
 120. But on the balance-sheet of Oct. 31 there  
 appeared the new item of 16,995,518\$220, con-  
 sidered equivalent to £900,140 10s. 10d.,  
 amount of the bank's indebtedness to the gov-  
 ernment on special account for exchange.

This sum we presume to be the amount of the  
 loans made by the government to the bank in  
 June and in August. It had been reduced, as  
 we have seen, up to the 31st ult. to 13,725,-  
 039\$895, considered equivalent to £761,000,  
 the respective payments being made, we sup-  
 pose, either in gold or currency.

On the balance-sheet of Oct. 31 there also  
 appeared the item of 22,770,473\$178, amount  
 which the bank owed the government on  
 balance of accounts. This, if we understand  
 correctly the courteous explanation made to  
 us last month by the present administration of  
 the bank, was what then remained of the  
 balance in favor of the national treasury on  
 account current and on account of the redemp-  
 tion fund, amounting altogether, as we have  
 stated, on Aug. 31 to 45,181,339\$120. It  
 appears, then, that at some time between Aug. 31  
 and Oct. 31 the government drew from the  
 bank the large sum of 22,410,855\$942. If this  
 occurred before the suspension of payments, it  
 doubtless contributed no little to cause that  
 suspension. If it occurred after suspension  
 the conduct of those who are responsible for  
 it was (to use no harsher classification) cer-  
 tainly irregular. To force the suspension of  
 a bank holding large sums of private money is  
 to jeopardise that money, and to withdraw  
 money from a bank after its suspension of  
 payments is, if nothing worse, treating with  
 utter contempt the rights of creditors and  
 shareholders. We have already seen that the  
 losses of the former, ascertained up to the pre-  
 sent, amount to nearly 40,000,000\$, not count-  
 ing interest and indirect loss. But they un-  
 doubtedly amount to a much larger sum than  
 has yet been ascertained.

Among the losers is the national treasury,  
 which, it appears, has received in payment of  
 the above-mentioned balance of 22,770,473\$178  
 depreciated *inscriptos*, thus sustaining a direct  
 loss that may be estimated at about 3,000,000\$,  
 besides the indirect loss which it sustains from  
 the shrinkage in the prices of public revenue  
 and the contingent loss to which it is subject  
 on the public money still in the bank and on  
 account of its responsibility for the payment  
 of principal and interest of the *inscriptos*.

As for the shareholders, those who sell at  
 the present time lose nearly 150\$000 on each  
 share and those who continue to hold may lose  
 everything.

It has been stated that the total loss result-  
 ing from the bank's suspension of payments  
 has been estimated at 250,000,000\$, and, if to  
 the losses of creditors and shareholders of the  
 Banco da Republica we add those of creditors  
 and shareholders of other banks and those,  
 direct and indirect, of the whole community,  
 the estimate certainly does not seem exagger-  
 ated. And for these losses the government is  
 responsible, for by means of burdensome taxa-  
 tion it absorbed resources that would other-  
 wise have been available for business purposes,  
 and by drawing money from the Banco da  
 Republica it deprived this bank of the ability  
 to cope with the situation.

The following is a statement of the assets of  
 the bank on old account at the date of each  
 of the three balance sheets:

Government bonds belonging to the reserve fund:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	11,830,000\$000
Oct. 31, ".....	11,830,000\$000
Jan. 31, 1901.....	9,000,000\$000

Other public funds:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	42,332,050\$079
Oct. 31, ".....	34,811,868\$599
Jan. 31, 1901.....	28,920,754\$075

Shares and debentures of banks and com-  
panies:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	59,362,931\$825
Oct. 31, ".....	59,362,931\$825
Jan. 31, 1901.....	55,699,071\$025

Bills discounted:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	31,104,169\$060
Oct. 31, ".....	35,117,918\$350
Jan. 31, 1901.....	9,567,327\$234

Bills receivable:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	5,390,336\$750
Oct. 31, ".....	4,840,380\$100
Jan. 31, 1901.....	2,618,602\$900

Guaranteed accounts current:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	73,046,246\$172
Oct. 31, ".....	5,190,229\$670
Jan. 31, 1901.....	72,620,772\$181

Bonds loans, principal:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	34,334,030\$070
Oct. 31, ".....	31,063,441\$870
Jan. 31, 1901.....	31,106,283\$120

Bonds loans, interest:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	4,500,258\$520
Oct. 31, ".....	5,190,229\$670
Jan. 31, 1901.....	4,639,997\$230

Agents:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	5,490,317\$159
Oct. 31, ".....	981,324\$045
Jan. 31, 1901.....	445,761\$199

Real estate:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	10,138,090\$309
Oct. 31, ".....	10,180,296\$137
Jan. 31, 1901.....	9,938,253\$803

Summary of the foregoing ten classes of  
assets:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	277,528,430\$844
Oct. 31, ".....	259,354,161\$250
Jan. 31, 1901.....	224,579,721\$947

Sundry assets:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	24,262,112\$495
Oct. 31, ".....	26,146,597\$466
Jan. 31, 1901 (includ- ing 20,438,500\$ in <i>inscriptos</i> redeemed).....	39,135,546\$498

Securities in liquidation:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	6,417,680\$971
Oct. 31, ".....	7,940,733\$201
Jan. 31, 1901.....	11,617,796\$216

## Cash:

Aug. 31, 1900.....	18,589,462,689
Oct. 31 ".....	2,647,378,749
Jan. 31, 1901.....	11,776,644,528

From the foregoing figures it appears that the new administration in winding up the old accounts of the bank had, between Oct. 31, 1900, and Jan. 31, 1901, made the following reductions in assets:

In ten classes above discriminated.....	34,774,439,503
In sundry classes not discriminated above.....	7,449,460,968
Total.....	42,223,900,371
Less increase in securities in liquidation.....	3,677,063,505
Net reduction.....	38,546,837,866

In that period the administration with the income of the bank, including resources obtained by realising on assets, paid the debt of 3,000,000 to the London and Brazilian Bank, that of 5,18,588,600 to the London and River Plate Bank and 3,271,478,325 of the debt on exchange account to the national treasury and added 9,128,665,779 to the cash balance on old account, besides redeeming 9,979,200, already destroyed, and 20,448,500, soon to be destroyed, of *certificates*, issued in payment of the bank's debt to depositors and to the national treasury on balance of accounts.

On new account the balance-sheet of the 31st ult., like those of Nov. 30 and Dec. 31, seems to show that the principal business of the reorganized bank is that of dealing in exchange. At the end of January the drafts on London, Paris and Hamburg amounted to £1,221,376, against £886,340 on Dec. 31 and the remittances to foreign bankers to £743,032 on Jan. 31 against £442,550 at the end of December.

The growth of the deposit and discount business is shown by the following figures:

Deposits on account current with interest:	
Nov. 30, 1900.....	4,881,482,827
Dec. 31 ".....	5,922,248,799
Jan. 31, 1901.....	8,940,077,323
Deposits on account current without interest:	
Nov. 30, 1900.....	1,391,944,010
Dec. 31 ".....	2,131,186,512
Jan. 31, 1901.....	2,257,866,584
Bills discounted:	
Nov. 30, 1900.....	4,361,580,234
Dec. 31 ".....	5,753,542,394
Jan. 31, 1901.....	7,657,938,710

The amount of bills discounted at the end of January was 23,446,775,350 less than the amount on the 31st of last August, before Congress had voted the law authorising the government to lend money to the bank for the purpose of assisting the business community. The national treasury's balance on account current was reduced during the month from 6,196,670,780 to 2,663,130,297.

The bank's cash balance on new account at the end of the month was 13,971,915,809, against 12,387,912,410 at the end of December. Adding the cash balance on old account to that on new account, the total is 25,747,960,337. This was the largest bank cash balance at the end of last month, the next largest being as follows:

London and Brazilian Bank..	20,800,331,910
London and River Plate Bank..	15,147,468,801
Brazilianische Bank für	
Deutschland.....	12,875,958,373

The aggregate cash balance of the four banks at the end of last month amounted to 74,571,718,635 against 62,698,794,879 on Jan. 31, 1900. The aggregate amount of bills discounted by the four banks decreased during the twelve months from 52,051,343,723 to 24,015,538,124, or, if we deduct the balance of 9,567,327,234 on the old account of the Banco da Republica, to 14,448,209,890. When banks such as those in question, disposing of their cash balances show, of large resources, consider themselves obliged to continue to increase those balances and to restrict to the extent above indicated their assistance to the business community, the situation is certainly deplorable. Is this situation to be prolonged indefinitely? Have not business men a sufficiently just comprehension of their legitimate interests and sufficient business capacity to unite and put an end to such a disastrous state of affairs?

## HERESY ABOUT MALARIA AND MOSQUITOES.

To the Editor of *The Standard*.

Sir: I ask leave to confirm the gist of the statement made over the signature of *«Africa»* in *The Standard* of the 3d inst., to the effect that malaria can exist without mosquitoes and vice versa. I spent three years, from 1842 to 1845, at Rio de Janeiro, where there was a large English colony, and mosquitoes were prevalent in the evening and at night nearly all the year round, but I never heard of a case of malaria. From 1846 to 1861 I lived at New Orleans, where mosquitoes were extremely troublesome both by day and night during seven months of the year; there were large areas of stagnant water in the swamp behind that city, but among my numerous acquaintances I never heard of any one being afflicted with malaria fever or, as the Americans call it, chills and fever.

I afterward contracted tertian ague (chills and fever) in a severe form through living at

a country house on high, dry land, within ten miles of the city of New York, land that had been cultivated for centuries, where mosquitoes were few and unimportant. Many years passed before I was rid of the poison. I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

C. T. GOSTENHOFFER.

Birkenhead, Dec. 4.

The author of the foregoing who says he was here from 1842 to 1845,—that is, before yellow fever made its appearance and before Rio had even a beginning of her present drainage works—could not say the same in regard to malaria to-day. We still have the mosquitoes, but we also have malaria. In fact, malaria is becoming a very important item in our ordinary statistics, and is credited with about fifty deaths a month. In 1899 the number of deaths credited to this cause, which we believe covers various forms of malarial fevers and is not limited to "chills and fever," was no less than 613 of which 285 occurred in the first quarter, 139 in the second, 86 in the third, and 103 in the fourth. From this it will be seen that the hot and wet months, which are most favorable for the development of mosquitoes as well as malaria, produce the greatest number of fatal cases. We have not yet seen the total for the past year, but the percentage in relation to population could not have been less. A difficulty in dealing with such a question is to be found in the diagnoses of physicians themselves. There must have been malarial diseases in 1842-5 as now, but the physicians probably called it something else. The city and its suburbs were then not as well drained as they are now, and there then existed large swampy areas within the city limits which are now drained and covered with buildings. It is not easy to believe that the swampy grounds which now produce malaria did not then do the same thing.—*Ed. News.*

Pursuant to an Order of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice made in the matter of the Estate of John Arthur Bramley Moore deceased 1900, B. 2803. The Creditors of the said John Arthur Bramley Moore late of May Bank Alghurst in the County of Lancaster, England, and who was at the time of his death a partner in the firm of John Moore & Co. of Rio de Janeiro in the Republic of Brazil and who died on the 15th day of July 1900 are or are to be on or before the 15th day of July 1901 to send by post to Philip Frederic Garnett of Royal Insurance Buildings North John Street Liverpool in the County of Lancashire England a member of the firm of Messrs. Garnett Tarbet & Co. the solicitors for Annie Ellen Bramley Moore Widow, the administratrix with the will annexed of the Estate of the deceased their Christian and surnames addresses and descriptions full particulars of their claims and statement of their accounts and the nature of the securities (if any) held by them or in default thereof, they will be peremptorily excluded from the benefit of this order. Every creditor holding any security is to produce the same before Mr. Justice Kekewich at his Chambers the Royal Courts of Justice Strand London on Monday the 22nd day of July 1901 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon being the time appointed for adjudication on the claims.

Dated this 6th day of January 1901

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RIO DE JANEIRO, FEBRUARY 12th 1901.

PERHAPS the weakest point in the present situation, so far as the business interests of this country are concerned, is the lack of union among the commercial and industrial classes. There is no cohesion, no common understanding, no leadership, no trustworthy medium of communication between them. Their interests are prejudiced, their fortunes wasted, and their prospects ruined—and they can do nothing because they do not stand by each other. Were they united, they could compel respect and prevent hostile legislation, but as individuals they can do nothing. In view of the enormous prejudices which trade and industry have suffered during the last ten years through legislative blunders and oppressive taxation, it would seem full time that these productive interests should unite to protect themselves against further unfriendly legislation. In no other country of the importance of Brazil would the people tamely and silently submit to all the impositions which are being heaped upon them here. Self-respect as well as self-protection demand some action as a protest to these vexatious acts of arbitrary government. It is idle to wait for the evil to correct itself, for the chances are that it will never do so. If the trade of this country is to be revived and established on a sounder footing, aggressive action must be taken by the classes interested. If they wait for the government to voluntarily remove prejudicial restrictions and oppressive taxes, it will never be done. They must unite and then demand reform. They must discuss these problems of taxation, and customs restrictions, and banking obstructions in the public press, and if the public press does not give them a friendly hearing then they must establish newspapers of their own. Both their own private interests and the public interests of the nation are at stake. Patriotism as well as self-interest demands prompt and vigorous action. There is no conspiracy in such a course of action; on the contrary, it is a preventive of conspiracy and revolt. We can not go on much longer in this direction without stirring the people into revolt. They are out of work, life is becoming difficult, and hunger is at the door. Something must be done to improve the situation, and in our opinion the commercial classes should be taking the matter into consideration. If they can not accomplish anything by petition and argument, then they should go into politics and elect better men to make the laws. They can do it if they try, for they would have the masses of the people with them. The most influential man in the country (though he does not know it) is the "venda-keeper." He is always doing something for the poor. He loans them a little money in



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their distress, he gives them credit, he makes out their accounts, writes their letters, adjusts their petty disputes, becomes *fianco* for their rents, and is even godfather for their children. Such a man is a controlling influence in a community, and his opinions and wishes are respected. It is clearly evident, therefore, that the commercial classes can exercise a powerful influence on legislation if they choose to do so, but they can not do it without union and combination.

WE ARE glad to see from a Washington telegram of the 9th inst. that the principles of peace in the United States are steadily gaining in number and strength, and that they hope to bring about an early settlement of the war waged against the natives of the Philippine islands. The war is not only expensive, but it is in violation of the traditions which Americans have treasured for a hundred years. The people of the Philippines are simply fighting for their independence, and against an aggressive foreign power. Americans have always held that a people have a natural right to do this, and their sympathies have always been given to every people engaged in such a struggle, until the Spanish-American war threw the Philippine islands into their hands and created a new national sentiment in favor of imperialism and militarism. It may be believed that when the people have had time to reflect, they will put aside the gilded scheme of a world wide empire, and then devote themselves anew to the development of their own great country.

It is a noteworthy feature of the present difficult situation here that the London press still preserves its faith in the President and his minister of finance. At almost every step in the course of events in this country, care is taken to compliment the President and his minister on their policy, and on what they have accomplished. It would be interesting to know how this has been brought about. We know what has been promised from time to time, and we know what good measures have been introduced on sundry occasions by the minister. But promises make very poor pastry, as all good cooks know. What we should like our foreign contemporaries to do is to carefully investigate just how far all these promises have been realized. There is not overmuch respect for public opinion in this country, and the government generally acts as it pleases. The government has had a free hand to carry its policy into effect, and when matters go wrong we must consider that the fault is in the policy itself rather than with the public. That we should be steadily drifting from bad to worse, is to be accounted for solely by the measures adopted and enforced by the President and his advisers, for in such matters congress need not be considered.

The questions raised by a correspondent, in another column, in regard to difficulties connected with the preparation of consular invoices, cover only a small part of the inconveniences and vexations connected with that new and wholly unnecessary requirement. It creates difficulties in trade, increases expenses, and discredits the country. All these are prejudicial to the country in every sense of the word. The consular invoice is a nuisance as well as a vexation, for it settles nothing and is fruitful of endless contentions. If a country wishes to discourage foreign trade, it would be far more sensible to close its ports altogether. To treat merchants as would-be lawbreakers is an outrage which no revenue necessity or policy of protecting national industries can justify. Moreover, no country has a right to impose such annoyances upon the merchants of a foreign state. As for the statistical object, there is nothing in it which could not have been better arranged at the custom-house itself. If that public department were better organized and administered, every particular relating to the foreign and coasting trade of the country should be recorded there. It is to be feared that the present scheme is nothing more than a job, designed to provide places for a few more supporters of the government.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### CONSULAR INVOICES.

To the Editor of "The Rio News."—  
Dear Sir,—I was really in despair about these consular invoices till I came across *The Brazilian Review* of the 25th December, and found out at once how simple a matter it really is, or would be, if only our Brazilian friends would import nothing else but draw bars, scroll irons, seat levers and hornblocks. As the Great Parajonim points out, none of them are in the "Official Nomenclature"; I know that for a fact, as I spent hours looking for them. Then observe how all difficulties disappear; hornblocks, seat levers, etc., all become as by enchantment simple "unenumerated manufactures of iron." The only drawback, if I might venture to suggest one, is the time it takes to find out that an article is not in the "Official Nomenclature." You have to read the thing through from cover to cover, but in time even this difficulty will vanish when we get to know the "Official Nomenclature" by heart.

Fired by this hornblock example, and the wonderful ease with which the editor of the

Statistical Bureau worked it all out, I seized my "Official Nomenclature" (price £1, and dirt cheap at that, the binding alone being worth the money) and set to work on a general dealer's sort of invoice for a Rio correspondent, that what I put down in the consular invoice as worth £100, is worth nothing at all. This, however, is by the way. As I said, I was fired by the editor's example, and taking up my "Official Nomenclature," my official forms and all the other apparatus necessary for a good consular invoice, I set to work. Here's my example, and I give the *modus operandi* to show how simple it all is:

"B. P. No. 1. 1 case cont'g.  
to Doz. Nickel Bits."

I open my "Official Nomenclatures" and look up Bits; I run down the list—

"Beef,  
Bells,  
Beverages,  
Bicycles, and parts of—"

Can that be it? Part of a thing, even of a bicycle, is a bit. No, it won't do. When it's translated into Portuguese, it doesn't seem so plausible somehow.

"Birds,  
Biscuits,  
Blackings,—"

No, there are no 'Bits'. Perhaps it's under another heading! Let's see—Harness? That's it. Look up Harness—

"Hair, bristles,  
Hair, vegetable."

Hoory! Got it at last!

Harness—arreios.

Hang it all, if Harness means 'arreios', I'm dished if 'arreios' means Bits. Somebody will get fired here (probably me) if I'm not careful. Happy thought! Look up Nickel—

Got it, by Jove!

"Nickel, unmanufactured—em brutto.

"Nickel, unmanufactured—em obras."

No doubt about it—Nickel Bits are nickel 'em obras'.—How easy it all is, if you only bring a little intelligence to bear.

Begin to write, but horrid qualms come over me. I refer again to the editor's simple invoice of hornblocks and things, and I think about fines. My profit on this invoice will come to about thirty shillings—can't afford many fines out of that. Editor calls his hornblocks—unenumerated manufactures of iron. Now, Bits are certainly not enumerated. Shall I call them 'Nickel em obras', or 'Unenumerated manufactures of Nickel'? Delicate question! Which is punishable with the biggest fine if it happens to be wrong? Heaven only knows! However, must decide somehow.—Happy thought! Take the shortest! Down it goes:

"to Doz. unenumerated maniac—"

No! Hang it all, wrong again! Start a fresh form.

"to Doz. Nickel em obras."

Don't sound right somehow! to Doz. Nickel? to Doz. Nickels would be better, but there's that "Official Nomenclature"—it's singular there, and it will be pretty singular in my invoice. However, as I've been half an hour over that one item and there are others to follow, it must stop as it is. Three cheers for the 10 Doz. Nickel em obras, and pass on to the next article!

"to Doz. Iron Door Locks."

Not a large line, perhaps, as they only cost 4/- a dozen, but if I call them out by their name, Goodness only knows what they may cost me. I look 'em up in my "Official Nomenclature." They are not under Locks! Must be somewhere! I could understand seat levers or hornblocks not being in it. You wouldn't expect to find them anywhere—but Door Locks, that's an every day sort of article. They are not under Iron and Steel, but they must be lurking in some unexpected corner, and as I certainly can't afford to be fired for twenty shillings' worth of locks, I read the "Nomenclature" through, from A to Z, and from cover to cover. It's not exciting, but it takes me the best part of an hour. Well, well, down it goes among the "unenumerated etceteras". I'm getting reckless. Next article—

"to Doz. Brass Hinges."

Look up Hinges. Not there! Confound it all! There's nothing in the "Nomenclature", and yet it took me an hour to read through it. Look up Brass—No such thing! Bronze—See Copper. I do—

"Copper and alloys."

Heaven preserve us! Down it goes—

"Unenumerated manufactures of Copper and alloys."

Well, the thing's done at last somehow; at least one copy. Oh! they want three more, do they? Good again. The shades of night are falling fast, and only one finished.

Next invoice, please.

"to Doz. Brass Lined Oil."

Not in the "Nomenclature", of course. Nothing in the "Nomenclature", but common every day things like hornblocks and seat levers. Down it goes "Unenumerated" again.

"to Bales Leather."

Leather not in the "Nomenclature"—hardly worth while looking. Never mind, read it through again. Hillo! What's that? Midnight! Missed the mill! Hoory! Confound the editor! Confound the consuls! Confound all their statistics!

I'm retiring from business, I am; it ain't good enough, and I shall employ my leisure

compiling an 'Official Nomenclature' for things like Statistical Bureaus, Brazilian Reviews, Wile men and Budybodies. I don't know what heading they'll come under, but anyhow they'll all be 'enumerated', and I fancy a lot of them will come under D.

Yours, etc.

INVOICE CLERK.

London, January 10, 1901.

## COFFEE NOTES

—The total sales of coffee on the New York Coffee Exchange last year amounted to 7,412,250 bags, against 4,427,500 bags in 1899. The highest price for futures was in July when a March delivery was sold at 9.30 cents, and the lowest in December when a January delivery was sold at 5.35 cents.

—The now well-known apologist for the present government who writes to the *Correio Paulistano* under the nom de plume José Estevão, devoted his letter of the 3rd inst. to the question of coffee. This is naturally the dominating question with the São Paulo planters, and as the outlook for them is not improving the pen of this skillful writer is called into requisition. But he forgets that the planter is a practical reasoner when he asserts: "The greatest duty of the state to agriculture, as it is to all classes, is to insist on the redemption of paper money, seeking to improve the value of the circulating medium, whose depreciation has so profoundly disturbed every commercial relation and has caused large prejudices to private fortune." This sound very much like a sermon from the minister of finance, but unfortunately the planters are finding that a currency of improved value is really an obstacle to them at the present moment. Here as well as in Argentina, the agriculturists are benefited by a great depreciation in the currency, and will continue to be until prices go up.

## PROVINCIAL NOTES

—There were 218 deaths from small-pox in the city of Ceará in the month of January.

—Deputy Ercio Coelho is spoken of as the successor of Quintino Bocayna in the federal senate.

—Last year before the federal court in São Paulo there were 90 prosecutions for counterfeiting.

—Reports of cases of lynching in the district of Ubatuba, Minas Geraes, continue to be published.

—Some days ago a dynamite bomb was thrown on the roof of the house of the vicar of Batatas, S. Paulo.

—A telegram of the 9th inst. says that the postmaster of São João d'El Rey has disappeared with a large sum of money.

—The politicians are already agitating for the next gubernatorial election in Minas Geraes, and Cesário Alvim is spoken of as a candidate.

—Advices from Ouro Preto, Minas Geraes, state that a commission of French engineers is expected there to examine gold and diamond properties.

—It is stated that the party that opposed the administration of Gov. Alberto Torres will shortly hold a convention for an electing executive committee.

—A telegram from Bello Horizonte of the 6th inst. announces the death of Dr. João d'Alta Machado, who has been prominent in political life for some years past.

—According to the census returns from Pedreiras do Lavras, Minas Geraes, that district has 6,562 inhabitants and 12,020 houses, or nearly two houses per inhabitant. House-rent is probably cheap in Pedreiras de Lavras.

—A telegram from Pará says that ex-Gov. Theodorico Corvalão embarked for Europe on the 8th inst. Senator Lauro Salgueiro embarked for Rio on the same day, but Deputy Sacramento is remaining in Pará to hold the place down.

—It is reported from São Paulo that the elections to fill the three vacancies in the federal chamber of deputies, will be effected only after the opening of congress in May next. In that case São Paulo will not be fully represented at the opening of congress.

—We are glad to see that Augusto Montenegro has at last set in his resignation as deputy from Pará. He stuck to the post until he had safely secured the governorship of Pará, and then resigned. It is pitiful to see how anxious some of these politicians are to keep an official position in their grasp.

—Complaints are again made of the exactions of the S. Paulo sanitary inspectors, who are now ordering the removal of closets to other places without the slightest regard to the location of sewer drains, or the fall of the land. As the closets have been located by sanitary engineers, the question arises whether these medical inspectors are competent to order changes.

—On the 8th inst. at Pará the police dispersed a meeting of mercantile clerks, called, it is stated, for the purpose of protesting against a municipal tax of 1/10 on their salaries. A telegram of the 10th inst. says that the *Gazeta de Belém* has proved that there is no truth in the report that the municipal government intends imposing this tax. Well, if it ever intended to do so, it has, we hope, abandoned its intention.

—Interviewed at Pernambuco on the 8th inst. Dr. Frederico Froese, surgeon of the steamer *Alagoas*, stated that on his arrival at Rio de Janeiro he would defend himself from the charges made against him by the sanitary dictators.

—A telegram from Pernambuco says that the army officers belonging to the garrison of that city have organized a carnival club called the Club Cari-Dura. We suspect that these officers hope to succeed the eminent strategist and military critic now devoting his consummate abilities to the organization of the statistical army.

—In order to get rid of Judge Navarro Lins, who had forbidden the execution of the order for the removal of municipal superintendent Raulino Horn, the governor of Santa Catarina appointed that judge to the office of solicitor general. But the judge has declined the appointment, which, moreover, has been declared illegal by the president of the superior court.

## RAILROAD NOTES

—The Juiz de Fora tramway will be sold at auction on the 25th inst.

—Owing to the rains of Saturday last further interruptions to traffic from landlides occurred on the Minas section of the Central railway.

—The Federal treasury received 650,375,956 from the Central railway on Tuesday last, that sum representing the receipts of the preceding week.

—The Rezendes a Bocaina line, which was obliged to suspend traffic by damages caused by recent heavy rains, has resumed traffic between Sarnahy and Baurbas.

—The January traffic returns of the São Paulo railway (139 kilometres), compared with the same month of last year, give the following results:

	1901	1900
Inland freights, . . . tons.	51,917	47,103
do since 1st Jan. . .	51,917	47,103
Outward freights, . .	30,960	20,360
do since 1st Jan. . .	30,960	20,360
Passengers carried, . .	91,120	78,019
do since 1st Jan. . .	91,120	78,019
Inter-station traffic, tons.	21,444	16,555

—The estimated traffic receipts of the Leopoldina railway for the week ending 26th January were as follows, compared with the corresponding week of last year:

Receipts in currency, . . . . .	251,775	251,775
do in kind, . . . . .	382,462	382,462
Decrease for week, . . . . .	130,687	130,687
Equivalent in gold this year (100) . .	£10,491	£10,491
do last year (7 5/8) . . . . .	£12,151	£12,151
Decrease in sterling for week, . . . .	£1,660	£1,660
Total receipts since January 1, . . .	£33,927	£33,927
do since January 1, . . . . .	£39,001	£39,001
Decrease since January 1, . . . . .	£5,074	£5,074

—The Paulista company announces the distribution, from to-day, of a 10 per cent dividend for the past year. The receipts of the company for the year were 22,032,019,868, and the expenses 9,087,214,826, leaving a balance of 12,944,805,042. Adding to this the amount brought forward from 1899 and there appears a total surplus of 13,500,993,553. The distribution of this surplus will be as follows: interest on external debt 3,654,845,000; interest and discounts 633,338,45; transfer taxes 210,000; 10 per cent dividend 6,000,000; carried forward to next year 3,102,615,828. The directors expect to pay 14 per cent for this year.

—The London *Time's* Money Markets article of 24th December last reproduces a greater part of an important communication on the default of the União-Sorocabana on its first mortgage debentures, which is worth careful perusal. The bad faith of the directors of the company and the weakness of the courts in affording protection to investors, can not be too often denounced, and we should be glad to see some of our Brazilian contemporaries reproducing the article for the benefit of their readers. Such treatment of foreign investors will help to make it difficult for other enterprises to obtain capital abroad, and this means serious prejudice to the whole country.

—The approximate weekly traffic returns of the Recife and São Francisco railway (77 1/2 miles), compared with the corresponding week of last year, are as follows:

	1900	1899	increase
Freight traffic, . . . . .	3,007,510	3,376,884	369,373
Passengers car. . . . .	4,072 1/2	4,429 1/2	356 1/2
Total receipts, . . . . .	30,960,800	31,500,810	540,010
do since Jan. 1, . . . . .	1,571,507,450	1,502,351,600	68,155,850

	1900	1899	decrease
Freight traffic, . . . . .	3,745,839	3,947,454	201,615
Passengers car. . . . .	4,335	4,259	76
Total receipts, . . . . .	42,020,100	39,417,900	2,602,200
do since Jan. 1, . . . . .	1,915,425,200	1,743,735,900	171,689,300

	1900	1899	increase
Freight traffic, . . . . .	3,081,308	3,815,157	733,849
Passengers car. . . . .	9,348 1/2	9,962 1/2	614
Total receipts, . . . . .	48,907,800	43,641,800	5,266,000
do since Jan. 1, . . . . .	1,654,417,800	1,425,435,400	228,982,400

	1900	1899	increase
Freight traffic, . . . . .	3,669,510	3,778,516	109,006
Passengers car. . . . .	10,414	10,757 1/2	343 1/2
Total receipts, . . . . .	47,508,800	44,501,800	3,007,000
do since Jan. 1, . . . . .	1,712,110,800	1,531,937,400	180,173,400

—The continued rains were said toward the end of last week to be still causing considerable embarrassment to railway traffic up country. Great difficulty has been experienced in running trains on schedule time.

## SHIPPING NOTES

—The U. S. S. "Chicago" and the U. S. S. "Atlanta," will leave Montevideo this week for Bahia Blanca where Admiral Schley and his staff will attend the opening of the new fort which will take place about the 28th inst.—*B. A. Herald*, Jan. 30.

—The ironclad *Aquidaban* has again been disabled and is now undergoing repairs in the port of Angra dos Reis. It is reported that this ironclad will be replaced by another in the naval division to which it now belongs. If we understand the dispatch correctly the division has been anchored at Angra ever since its arrival from Rio de Janeiro, and has therefore done nothing in the line of evolutions.

—The training ship *Sarmientos*, will sail on February 15th and spend two months on the south coast. It will then cross the Pacific calling at various islands, New Zealand and Australia. It will then go through the Suez canal and after visiting the Mediterranean will sail for the Atlantic coast of Europe, Britain and the Baltic. It will return by Canada and Brazil. It is expected to be back by December 1902 after sailing and steaming 46,000 miles and spending 250 days in ports.—*B. A. Herald*, Jan. 30.

## LOCAL NOTES

—A considerable number of cases of bubonic pest have been reported from Capetown, South Africa.

—The London *Daily Mail* of the 5th inst. says that a death from bubonic pest occurred at Cardiff on the preceding day.

—It is expected that Dr. Alfredo Maia will return to Rio and resumption of his portfolio before the end of the month.

—During the past month twelve infants were left in the "wheels" of the foundlings asylum of this city, of which six were males and six females.

—The impossible seems to have occurred, for the cable tells us of anti-clerical manifestations in Spain. The new century has brought us a surprise, surely!

—A Portuguese paper says the Pope has conferred the title of Conde do Natal (Count Christmas) on Dr. João Neiva, deputy from the state of Bahia.

—New cases of bubonic pest are reported at San Nicolas, Argentina—a port on the Paraná river. Cases are also reported from Belleville, in the province of Cordoba.

—A severe epidemic of small-pox is now raging in Glasgow, Scotland, but the health authorities here seem to have no interest in it. Up to yesterday the number of cases reported was 436.

—There seem to be many counterfeit notes in circulation in Rio as well as in the provinces, and our readers will do well to be careful. The principal counterfeits, we believe, are of the 500 and 1000 notes.

—Telegrams from Lisbon of the 6th inst. announce the death of Conselheiro Thomaz Ribeiro, recently Portuguese minister at this capital. He was a poet and author of note, and enjoyed great popularity both here and at home.

—Occasional cases of bubonic pest still continue to be reported, but they seem to attract no more attention than cases of yellow fever. The sanitary officials, however, are keeping up the force of disinfection, quarantine, etc.

—As customary nowadays the chief of police has prohibited the *entrudo* practices of carnival. The throwing of *confetti* and *serpentina* and the explosion of torpedoes, however, are permitted, providing no vexatious use of them is made.

—This city and vicinity were visited by a heavy rainstorm on Sunday evening after an excessively hot day. Considerable inconvenience and no slight obstruction to street traffic were caused by the rainfall, and much damage is reported.

—Trouble has already arisen over the use of *bisnagas*, because of the use of injurious liquids in them. One of them is said to have been charged with phosgene acid. The police authorities have prohibited their use, and some seizures and arrests have already been made.

—Reports were current in this city on the 6th inst. that a revolution had broken out in the state of Mato Grosso, and that fighting had begun between the friends of Senator Generoso Ponce and the forces of the state. The report had no official confirmation, however, and no news has since been received in regard to it.

—A physician of this city is accused of robbing a patient of jewelry. The reputable members of the profession ought to unite and take some cognizance of such acts. Subsequently the said physician has returned the jewelry and the lady now announces that he did not purloin it, but that she deposited it with him.

—It is now claimed that the census recently taken in this city is incorrect, and that the fault is with people who refused to fill out the papers. Perhaps they are afraid that the census is a device of the minister of finance to squeeze more taxes out of them. Where the people mistrust the government it is extremely difficult to get any information out of them.

—Next Sunday, Monday and Tuesday will be devoted to the senseless follies of carnival. There has been less disturbing preparations than usual, and we are led to hope that carnival itself will be less vexatious.

—On the 7th inst. the Dutch consul general at this capital, Mr. F. Palm, received visitors at the consulate in honor of the wedding day of Queen Wilhelmina. A large number of officials and business men called to tender their congratulations.

—The chief of police has very properly and wisely ordered that the infernal practice meetings of the carnival societies shall be permitted, beginning with Sunday last, only between the hours of 6 and 9 p. m. Formerly they were beating drums and triangles and blowing horns until after midnight. Besides this, no meetings for such practice are to be permitted near hospitals.

—The 1st delegado of police has decided upon the prosecution of Dr. Abel Parente for malpractice, the case being that of a married lady who had submitted to an operation for sterilization invented and advertised by the accused. After 43 visits for treatment the poor woman went insane and was taken to the asylum. The case was denounced last November, various police and medical investigations have been held, and now the accused is to be prosecuted.

—If the telegrams are to be believed, the Boer commandant, Gen. Dewet, is the most wonderful man living. One day he has invaded Cape Colony, the next he has fought a battle in eastern Transvaal, the next he escapes investing forces at Tlancham, the next he fights a battle north of Bloemfontein, and the next he is seeking to cross the Orange river into Cape Colony. It makes one giddy to follow him. The man with the seven league boots is nowhere beside him.

—The supreme court having decided that the closure of the Club Militar was illegal, it will be formally reopened on the 24th inst. The facts show that this club was more political than military, and that it was engaged in subversive discussions against the government. It was frankly hostile to the administration, which in military circles means indiscipline and mutiny. There can be no objection to a military club, but it cannot be permitted to mix in politics and to conspire against the authorities.

—We are in receipt of the Sunday edition of the *New York Herald* of December 30th containing an illustrated article on Minister Assis Brazil as a marksman and sportsman. He is represented as making bullseye shots from a variety of positions, and of shooting with pistols two birds perched on either side of him. The article is also highly complimentary to the Brazilian minister as a diplomat, and describes him as one of the most popular in Washington. Our New York correspondent will accept our thanks for the copy sent us.

—We have a new idea for the minister of finance, and we shall expect to see it incorporated in his next financial report. In recent lecture on the Sun (not the newspaper of that title), Sir Robert Ball says that it is shrinking at the rate of nine inches a day, or, say, five feet a week, or one mile every 20 years. Under such conditions the decrease in our exchange rate is perfectly legitimate. If then we can not help shrinking, then surely we can not expect Brazilian exchange to stop decreasing. Perhaps our shrinkage has not been regular and has been over-rapid, but that is due to our making a late start.

—A meeting of the general committee appointed to decide upon a suitable permanent memorial to Queen Victoria, was held at the British consulate on Saturday last. It was decided that the fund should be entitled the "Queen Victoria Memorial Fund," and that it should be devoted (1) to the expenses of the memorial service at the church, (2) to placing a commemorative plate in Christ Church, (3) to endowing one or more beds in the Strangers' Hospital or any other charitable purpose. A subscription list has been left at this office, on which we shall be pleased to receive the offerings of our friends. We are also glad to place our columns at the committee's disposal, but as no information of the last meetings was sent us we find it difficult to render the service which we cordially offer them.

—Through a letter recently received here by a friend of the late Mr. Cecil Block, who died at Torquay on January 12th, we learn that he had been hopelessly ill for some time. He was suffering from both diabetes and phthisis, which rendered it impossible to treat him properly for either disease. He died at a nursing home in Torquay, and was buried in a pretty cemetery overlooking the town. Two old residents of Rio, Messrs. D. Roberts and H. D. Clayton, were present at his burial.

—He also with him at intervals during his last illness. Mr. Block was a member of the firm of Messrs. Walter Block & Co., of this city, and had resided here for some years. He was a highly esteemed member of Eureka Lodge F. & A. M. of this city, a director of the Strangers' Hospital, an ardent lover of outdoor sports and member of the R. C. A. A., and leaves a host of friends to lament his death. His friends in England write that he was during his last days, showing how warmly attached he had become to the place. It is needless to say that he will be deeply missed by his many intimate friends in Rio de Janeiro, who would be glad to tender their heartfelt sympathies to his aged mother and other members of his own family.

## BIRTH.

At No. 16 Rua do Mundo Novo, Botafogo, on the 6th instant, the wife of R. J. Davis, of a daughter.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

U. S. Consular Reports; Nos. 223 and 224, December 1900 and January, 1901. We find nothing of importance relating to Brazil in these two numbers.

*O Jornal Baptista*; the organ of the Brazilian Baptist churches. A neat y, well-printed, 4-page sheet, with one or more illustrations, containing discussions and news interesting to the members of those churches.

Supplement of *The Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin*, of New York, giving an "Economic Retrospect of the Nineteenth Century." An important study of the events and progress of the past century.

## BUSINESS NOTES

—A telegram of the 9th inst. states that the number in which the consumption taxes are collected in Pernambuco is exciting much discontent.

—We are sorry to say those flimsy revenue stamps are again in circulation, worse even than the first ones. It is extremely difficult to sign across them.

—The defalcation in the S. João d'El-Rey postoffice has been found to be 394,405 in the receipts for December and January last. It is reported that the agent has confessed his criminality and then disappeared.

—At the Benefic fair, in Minas Geraes, there were sold last year in the 8 months from May to December, inclusive, 25,348 head of beef, cattle, the sum realised being 2,837,2578, that is an average of nearly 1128 a head.

—It is asserted that the state government of Amazonas is now requiring vessels arriving from Bolivian and Peruvian territory to land at Manaus merchandise intended for Pará. A telegram states that at the latter place there will be held to-day a meeting for the purpose of taking action on the subject.

—Referring to the consular invoice difficulty to which a London correspondent calls attention in another column, it may not be amiss to say that to classify articles not mentioned in the official nomenclature as "unenumerated manufactures," etc., may seem an easy way out of the difficulty to the author of that official publication, but will it work? After all, the real test is at the custom-house. The merchant who accepts the suggestion of a statistical editor, who is not an official, may find himself in trouble when he reaches the fine-hunting *comfereute* at the custom-house door.

—Were a hundredth part of the absurdities and vexatious to which business men are subjected in this capital, related to intelligent men abroad, they would argue that no serious government could countenance such abuses, and as they believe that Brazil has such a government they would consider these occurrences impossible. On Thursday last, and they will think this incredible, a business man sent the printed form with his report to the national treasury, as required, for the guidance of the *recebedor* in imposing the tax on industries and professions. But the treasury clerk entrusted with the receipt of such documents had not appeared at his desk that day and as no one else could receive them the taxpayer was told that he must come again the next day. Of course the taxpayer's time is not considered, nor his convenience. He is expected to run to the treasury as often as the officials desire.

—Despite the financial crisis which took place in Brazil lately, trade has not decreased any, but, on the contrary, in certain manufactured articles the demand from Brazil has increased. Manufacturers and merchants trading with that country are of the opinion that possibly the increase in duties on certain articles from 15 to 25 per cent which went into effect on the 1st inst. may be responsible for the large orders that arrived, which could not be filled quick enough to reach there before the first. However, in many branches of finished products the demand continues, as is shown by the shipments being taken by vessels about to sail. The steamer *Grecian Prince*, which left the other day for Brazilian ports, had on board upwards of \$53,500 worth of steel rails, four locomotives worth \$21,000, \$10,000 worth of car material and \$15,000 worth of manufactured iron. The steamer *Grecian Prince* also took a few days ago extra large shipments of finished goods, among which are worthy of notice \$18,000 worth of car material and \$62,000 worth of electrical machinery. Both vessels carried more than the average quantity of provisions and staples.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce*, Jan. 17.—The jump in customs receipts for January shows that a large part of the December imports that to escape the increased duties, failed to get through. There were some complaints that the customs officials used obstructive methods, but we are inclined to think that the principal cause was delayed shipment of goods. In some cases perhaps the importers were cutting the time too closely, leaving no margin for delays.—*Ed. News*.

## FINANCIAL NOTES

—The cash balance of the Banco da Bahia on the 31st ult. was 3,051,000.

—The negotiation for a loan for the state of Rio de Janeiro is still in progress.

—In the first week of the present month the receipts of the Bahia state treasury amounted to only 54,000.

—W. L. Lowrie, United States vice-consul general, returned last Thursday from a ten days trip to São Paulo.

—It is announced that the federal treasury will remit £300,000 to London by one of the steamers sailing this week.

—It is worthy of note that the capital of the Banco da Republica was reduced to 100,000,000 during the month of January.

—There is great rejoicing in the tabernacle of Martinho & Co. The gold receipts of the Penedo custom house amounted last month to 356,615.

—The receipts of the Rio de Janeiro general revenue office in January were 1,912,976-987, against 1,901,202,963 in the corresponding month of 1900.

—It may be no more than a question of ethics, but has a bank in liquidation a right to make money from the depreciated promises it issues to creditors?

—There were 3,000,000 of paper currency burned during the month of January, and 2,000 redeemed, reducing the outstanding total to 666,629,629,000 on 31st January.

—On Saturday last the minister of finance had another thousand counts of currency burned, together with 300 Banco da Republica *inscriptos* representing a value of 20,438,5008.

—Bahia telegrams of the 7th inst. announce the temporary suspension of payments by the *caixa economica* (savings bank) of that city. The bank was unable to meet the run, and is now awaiting assistance from the government.

—It is now asserted that the loan said to have been obtained by the government of the state of Rio de Janeiro will have to be repaid in five monthly instalments of 1,000,000 each. The general government is reported to be responsible for the loan.

—The national treasury remitted to London by the "Nile" last week the sum of £297,656, for the payment of eighth and last instalment for the ironclad "Floriano". We had understood that the preceding payment was the last, but like some theatrical celebrities, there seems to have been another far-crowed appearance.

—It is the universal testimony in business circles that money is now scarcer than ever. It is idle to talk of discounts, for they are almost impossible. A prominent merchant, in good standing, informed us some days ago that it is still impossible to discount "contas assignadas" at the banks, and that he had recently effected a transaction of this character with a private individual.

—The *Paz* is not finding any food for congratulation in the last balance sheet of the Banco da Republica, and even the *Jornal do Commercio* says "The liquidation of the banks now in *moralisim* may cause new difficulties for the market, and it will be necessary for the government to reorganize the Banco da Republica in the shortest time possible and upon bases which inspire confidence in the market."

—It seems that there is one source of revenue whose productiveness the government has not yet succeeded in destroying. The receipts from lotteries, estimated in the budget for last year at 1,000,000, are said to have amounted to 2,346,526,540. The government is, consequently, still able to maintain the Statistics Army, which, if reports are true, is even engaged in recruiting.

—The following returns of customs receipts for the month of January, in addition to those published in our last issue, have been made public:

	1901	1900
Santos.....	2,016,043,8718	1,340,370,8968
Pernambuco.....	2,524,793,8117	1,178,800,6884
Bahia.....	2,004,396,9667	779,784,302
Porto Alegre.....	444,041,106	not stated.
Muritiba.....	444,978,187	275,627,751
Ceará.....	173,507,823	353,571,877
Jaraguá.....	116,46,8773	not stated.
Paralyba.....	111,863,8073	" "
Paraguay.....	105,114,828	107,618,938
Paralyba.....	21,400,8525	not stated.
Nictoria.....	19,449,821	11,640,824
Aracá.....	19,117,195	20,497,764
Penedo.....	13,760,294	not stated.
Fatal.....	3,932,612	" "
Macabé.....	3,778,140	" "

—Financial affairs seem now to have reached a point at which it becomes absolutely necessary to dismiss public employees that the country is unable to pay. A recent telegram says that the state government of Pará has already commenced reducing the personnel of its public service, and it is asserted that the government of the state of Rio de Janeiro is preparing to follow the example. In due course will doubtless come the turn of other state governments, that of municipal governments and that of the general government. Would it not have been much better for all concerned to have commenced this work much sooner? It would then have been possible to do with deliberation and order what, we fear, will now be done in a precipitate, disorderly and incomplete manner. And before the country had been impoverished as it is now there would have been greater facilities for finding useful employment for the office-holders that lose their places. What is now desirable is that the work, thus tardily commenced after having been long and harmfully postponed, shall be executed as well as circumstances permit and with a thoroughness that will not only re-establish an equilibrium between public revenue and expenditure, but will also leave a margin for a large reduction in the burdens of taxpayers.



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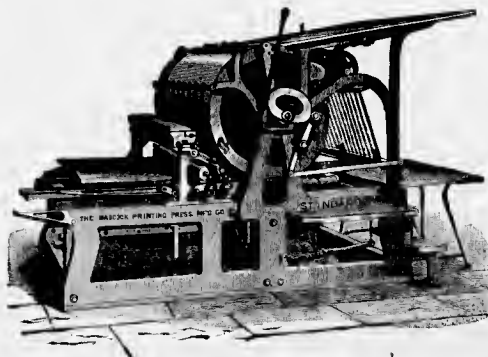
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